

Briefs . . .

Holiday Ball

The Fort Sam Houston 2005 Holiday Ball will be Dec. 9 at 6 p.m. at the Sam Houston Club. The cost is \$23 and includes entrée, salad, dinner rolls, beverage and dessert; a vegetarian meal is available. The dress is dress blue, dress mess or formal Class A for military and formal attire for civilians. For reservations, contact a unit activity representative before Friday.

Holiday concert

Maj. Gen. George Weightman, Army Medical Department Center and School and Fort Sam Houston commander, will host a free holiday concert Dec. 12 at 7:30 p.m. at the Scottish Rite Cathedral, on Avenue E at Fourth Street in San Antonio. The event will feature the U.S. Army Medical Command Band and the Texas Children’s Choir and is open to the public .

Christmas tree lighting

The Fort Sam Houston Christmas tree lighting ceremony will be Dec. 15 at 6 p.m. at the U.S. Army Garrison flagpole. The event features remarks from Col. Wendy Martinson, U.S. Army Garrison commander, holiday music, the tree lighting and refreshments.

Holiday Installation Formation Run

The Holiday Installation Formation Run will be Dec. 16 at 5:15 a.m. Units will assemble at MacArthur Parade Field no later than 5:15 a.m. All tenant units on Fort Sam Houston are invited to participate. The BG Johnson track will close during the run. For more information or run reservations, call Sgt. Maj. Jimmie Jay at 221-4027 or e-mail jimmie.jay@amedd.army.mil by Wednesday.

BAMC parking closure

The Parking Lot A south entrance at Brooke Army Medical Center is closed to ensure the safety of BAMC visitors and patients during the construction of the Center of the Intrepid. Drivers should be vigilant and drive slowly in lot A due to an increase of pedestrian traffic.

Senator McCain book signing

Senator John McCain will visit the main post exchange at Fort Sam Houston to sign his new book “Character is Destiny” Dec. 10 from 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Walters Gate construction

Starting Jan. 2, contractors will start a 75-day construction project at the Walters Gate. The gate’s 24-hour, seven-day-a week schedule will remain, and an outbound lane will stay open throughout the project. Electronic marquis and Fort Sam Houston Police officers will be on hand to direct traffic and inform people of changes as they occur. The News Leader will also provide updates and schedule changes.

A Co. change of command

A Company, 187th Medical Battalion’s change of command will be Monday at 4:30 p.m. at MacArthur Parade Field. Capt. James J. Jones will relinquish command to Capt. Jimmy Wade.

See **BRIEFS** on Page 4



Photo by Elaine Wilson

Joyous reunion

Sgt. Carlos Cruz is thrilled to see his daughter, Elyse, at the homecoming ceremony for Soldiers of the 328th Personnel Services Battalion. The Soldiers returned home Nov. 23 after serving for nearly a year in Kuwait in support of the Global War on Terrorism. See related story on Page 3.

Final 228th CSH element returns home

By Cheryl Harrison
Fort Sam Houston Public Information Office

The Jimmy Brought Fitness Center was filled to capacity with anxious families awaiting the arrival of the third and final element of the 228th Combat Support Hospital returning Sunday from a yearlong deployment to Iraq.

Family members weren’t the only people there to greet the heroes at the homecoming ceremony, a number of lifeguards were also there to share in the excitement, along with news media and customers of the fitness center.

Little 7 year-old Mira was dancing off to the side while waiting for her mother. “I was six when mommy went away,” she said. She pointed out her little brother and dad saying, “That’s my dad.” Dad was wearing a T-shirt declaring, “My wife is over there!”

Family and friends in packed bleachers were cheering, yelling and crying as they watched the door for the familiar face they’ve missed. The excitement became a deafening roar when the 200-plus members of the unit marched into the basketball center court of the fitness center.

Once the formality of the national anthem, invocation and Army band passed, Brig. Gen. Lie-Ping Chang welcomed the returning heroes saying, “The thing between you and your loved ones is me! I am a very popular man right now!” He continued

praising the Soldiers for their accomplishments and recognizing the tremendous success for their mission. “Welcome home and thank you for a job well done,” he said.

Before the Soldiers were dismissed, a special presentation was given by the unit to Carol McGilvray, wife of Col. Lester McGilvray, 228th CSH commander. The presentation was a thank you for all of her support to the families left behind during the deployment. McGilvray has been present for each homecoming celebration, only this time her own husband was among the returning Soldiers. “I am so relieved. We plan to just rest and relax now,” she said.

Hundreds of people poured from the bleachers, reuniting families, friends and parents with their children. Balloons and flowers were presented with tears flowing and smiles that lit up the room.

“I am so very happy to be home. It is going to be a very special Christmas,” said Spc. Marisol Fernandez.

The Soldiers of the 228th CSH mobilized and deployed last December to Iraq. They provided medical care to U.S. service members, coalition forces and others with emphasis on wound care and post-operative treatment.

Among the Soldiers of the 228th CSH were nine members of the 988th Reserve unit out of Austin, Texas.

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More than 120 pony express riders gallop across MacArthur Parade Field to deliver the governor’s holiday message as the 36th Infantry Division Band plays music at last year’s Christmas Along the Corridor ceremony.



Photo by Esther Garcia

Christmas Along the Corridor

The Alamo Area Council of Governments and the Alamo-La Bahia Corridor Committee will host the annual Christmas Along the Corridor Grand Finale and Fair Saturday from 1 to 5 p.m. at MacArthur Parade Field. All activities are free to the public. For more information, call 362-5220 or visit www.aacog.com/tourism.

Army-Baylor offers new joint degree program

The Army Medical Department leadership and Baylor University Board of Regents approved the new joint degree program between the Army-Baylor Graduate Program in Health Care Administration at Fort Sam Houston and the Hankamer School of Business at Baylor University in Waco, Texas.

Army-Baylor joins many highly regarded universities that offer a joint master of health administration/master of business administration degree.

The MHA program is accredited by the Commission on Accreditation of Healthcare Management Education. Accreditation for the MBA program will

be sought from the Association to Advance Collegiate Schools of Business.

“The joint degree will give our future health care leaders additional skills, including those provided in an MBA program, to operate effectively and more efficiently in a military health care environment,” said Lt. Col. M. Nicholas Coppola, Army-Baylor program director.

Joint degree students at Army-Baylor



Educating the next generation of Federal Health Care Leaders

will take courses related to health care administration and business administration during the one-year didactic phase at Fort Sam Houston. In addition to completing a graduate management project during their residency year, they will also complete coursework in business administration by distance learning. The program will continue to be only for selected military officers and civilian personnel from the federal sector.

This year, there are 20 students enrolled in the joint degree program. These students come from a variety of professional backgrounds in the Army, Navy, Air Force, Coast Guard and Veterans Affairs.

The Army-Baylor Program has been an evolving and dynamic program since its founding in 1947. Beginning as a three-month certificate program, it has evolved over the last 58 years into a nationally recognized program.

For more information, including a sample curriculum, visit the Army-Baylor Program Web site at www.baylor.edu/graduate/mha.

(Source: Army-Baylor University Graduate Program)

Fort Sam Houston News Leader

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Sgt. Chashonda Charles, of the 328th Personnel Services Battalion, clings to her daughters, 2-year-old Jasmine and 4-year-old Joycelyn, at the homecoming ceremony Nov. 23. Charles was deployed to Kuwait for nearly a year in support of the Global War on Terrorism.

328th Personnel Services Battalion returns home for holiday

Story and photos by Elaine Wilson
Fort Sam Houston Public Information Office

The Soldiers of the 328th Personnel Services Battalion returned home just in time for the holiday after nearly a year's deployment to Kuwait in support of Operation Enduring Freedom.

They reunited with family and friends at a welcome home ceremony Nov. 23 at the Roadrunner Community Center.

"It's so emotional," said Lysette Ramirez, who attended the ceremony to welcome her brother, Carlos Cruz, home and introduce him to his new niece, Klarysse. "It's definitely a blessing right before Thanksgiving."

With the holiday less than a day away, many of the Soldiers were headed back on the road, but this time to family celebrations. "We're going to my brother's house in Austin for Thanksgiving," said Andrea Lucas, wife of Capt. John Lucas. Although tired from the long trip, "I'm excited to get back into the family routine," Lucas said.

The battalion's Soldiers operated the

Personnel Processing Center at two locations in Kuwait, coordinating the activities of several elements including a finance detachment, movement control team and a quartermaster detachment. They managed the accountability and movement of about 500,000 Department of Defense personnel moving in and out of theater, whether to deploy, redeploy or for emergency leave.

"I'm very proud of these Soldiers," said Maj. Alex McCullough, 328th PSB commander, during the ceremony. "We had 725,000 transactions in and out of theater. Each one of these individuals provided leadership; I can't imagine better Soldiers for the situation."

Maj. Gen. George Weightman, installation commander, gave a brief speech at the ceremony, not wanting to delay holiday plans.

"To the 328th, we appreciate your service and are glad you are all back safe and sound. I'm proud of each and every one of you," he said. "To the families, thanks for the endless support and love, coming in and going out and everywhere in between."



Staff Sgt. Steve Rodriguez, of the 328th Personnel Services Battalion, gets close to his wife, Nancy.



Maria Ydrogo from Laredo, Texas, holds up a handmade sign for her son, Pfc. George Alvarez.



Staff Sgt. Alex Aranda, of the 328th Personnel Services Battalion, holds his daughter, 4-month-old Isabel, shortly after his arrival. Aranda was able to attend her birth but said she's grown a lot since he last saw her. "It feels great," he said.

Sgt. Makesha Edwards, of the 328th Personnel Services Battalion, greets her sister-in-law, Anne Wright, while her husband, Brent Edwards, waits to give her roses.



Briefs cont. . . .

Audie Murphy induction

The Sergeant Audie Murphy Club induction ceremony will be Dec. 16 at 3 p.m. at Blesse Auditorium. The event is sponsored by the Army Medical Department Center and School and 32nd Medical Brigade.

Change of charge ceremony

The change of charge ceremony for the officer in charge of the Naval School of Health Sciences, San Diego Detachment, will be Dec. 16 at 1:30 p.m. at the Evans Theater, Building 1396, Garden Road, on Fort Sam Houston. Capt. Eugene D. Barron will relinquish charge to Capt. William C. Perry. To attend, call 221-8537 or 221-8294 by Dec. 13.

Honor Medic Ceremony

The 32nd Medical Brigade will conduct an Honor Medic Ceremony in honor of Maj. Gen. Darrel Porr’s retirement Dec. 14 at 5 p.m. at the main post flagpole on Stanley Road.

Safety officer training

The next collateral duty safety officer training class will be Dec. 13 from 7:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. in Building 2841, Room 2202. For more information or to register, call Richard Edges at 221-3857 or e-mail richard.edges@sam-houston.army.mil.

ID sections close for updates

The ID card sections in the Welcome Center, Building 367, and at the Brooke Army Medical Center, Student Personnel Center, Building 1290, will be closed to the public Monday to upgrade the Defense Enrollment Eligibility Reporting System. All ID card sections will resume service Tuesday at 1 p.m. People can request ID card service at the following locations: Brooks City-Base, 536-1845; Kelly Air Force Base, 925-5534; Lackland AFB, 671-4178 or 671-6006; Wilford Hall Medical Center, 292-7288 or 292-7144; or Randolph AFB, 652-2276. For more information, call Rene Agosto at 295-8809 or Roy Salone at 295-8829.

Academy of Health Sciences

The first issue of a new quarterly newsletter published by the Office of the Dean at the Academy of Health Sciences has just been released. The “AHS Update” provides the latest information regarding AHS educational offerings, training products, research and current issues to leaders and professionals in the Army Medical Department and the Military Health System. To view the newsletter, visit <https://www.cs.amedd.army.mil> and click on “AHS Update.”

News Leader seeks feedback

The Fort Sam Houston Public Information Office has published a survey to solicit feedback from the post community. The responses will be used to improve the News Leader. Changes will be integrated starting with the Jan. 5 issue, the first newspaper of the new year. To access the online survey, visit <http://www.samhouston.army.mil/pao/default.html>, and click on “News Leader Survey.” The survey deadline is Dec. 16. For more information, call 221-0615 or 221-1031.

Holiday Helping Hands Program provides for post families in need

By Elaine Wilson
Fort Sam Houston Public Information Office

More than 280 military and civilian families from the Fort Sam Houston community had a more bountiful Thanksgiving thanks to generous donations and a program called Holiday Helping Hands.

The program, sponsored by the Installation Chaplain’s Office, provides a “helping hand” to families throughout the holiday season with gift certificates from the commissary and HEB, and Christmas toys for families in need.

“This year, we spent \$12,070 on vouchers and gift cards so families could purchase groceries and have a more plentiful Thanksgiving,” said Lucy Miller, Holiday Helping Hands volunteer.

The recipients of the food and toy certificates were chosen by unit commanders

and first sergeants, who hand-picked military and civilian families with financial needs.

With Thanksgiving over, the program coordinators are now turning their attention to their main event – Christmas.

“We plan on assisting hundreds of families with food certificates and vouchers this year,” said Robb Wood, project adviser.

Holiday Helping Hands also helps families through the creation of a toy warehouse, where pre-selected parents visit and pick out donated gifts on a designated day.

People can still donate new, unwrapped toys by calling Linda Wenck at 221-3688 or bringing them to the Holiday Ball Dec. 9.

The final project for Holiday Helping Hands this season will be a Santa toy delivery service for family housing residents, called Santa’s Express. Parents who wish to participate in this service should drop off

wrapped presents with housing address included to Staff Sgt. Anthony Thomas in Building 2265 before Dec. 21. Santa will then make his way through housing Dec. 23 from 6 to 9 p.m. to hand-deliver gifts.

“There are a lot of people in need, and without programs like this one and a generous community, those needs wouldn’t be met. It is through generous donations from people that make this program possible,” said Wood.

People can help Holiday Helping Hands by mailing donations to the Installation Chaplain’s Office; make checks out to the “Chaplain’s Fund.” “HHH” should be written in the memo line so it goes into the HHH subaccount.

For more information on Holiday Helping Hands, call Wood at 221-5428. For more information about Santa Express, call Thomas at 516-2876.

228th returns

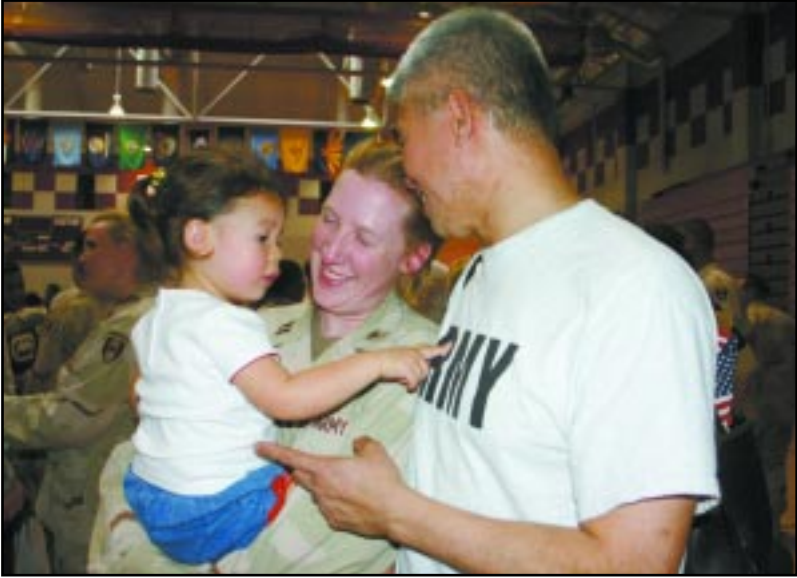
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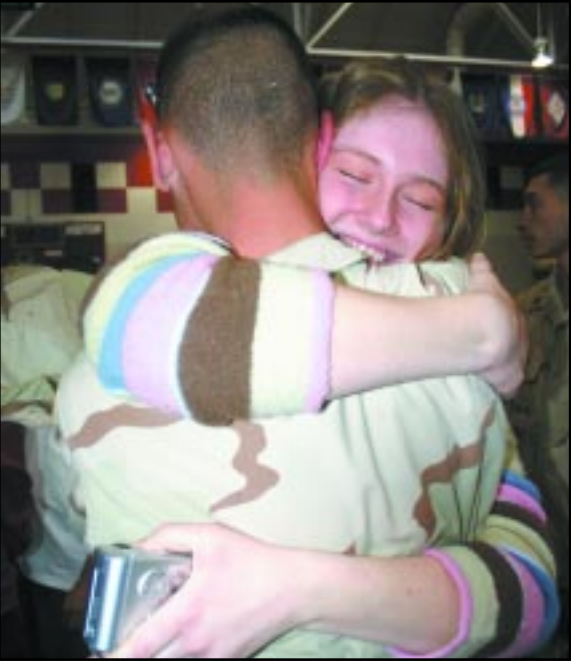
Photos by Elaine Wilson
Sgt. Alex Ramirez, of the 228th Combat Support Hospital, has a tearful reunion with his wife, Felicia. More than 200 Soldiers of the 228th CSH returned home Sunday after a year in Iraq.



Sgt. 1st Class Paulette Turner hugs her daughter during the 228th Combat Support Hospital homecoming.



Capt. Dorean Hortillosa, of the 228th Combat Support Hospital, greets her daughter, 2-year-old Alina, and husband, Andy.



Juliana Sigthorsdottir is thrilled to see her boyfriend, Sgt. Shawn Warren, of the 228th Combat Support Hospital.



Sgt. David Cantu, of the 228th Combat Support Hospital, holds his nephew, 4-week-old Beau, for the first time.

‘This is no drill’

Former Army physician remembers Pearl Harbor

By Andricka Hammonds
Brooke Army Medical Center Public Affairs

Retired Brig. Gen. Robert M. Hardaway, 89, recalled a pivotal moment in his life — the Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor Dec. 7, 1941.

Speaking at the U.S. Army Institute of Surgical Research at Brooke Army Medical Center in November, Hardaway discussed the lessons learned for the mass casualty event.

Hardaway was the first physician to arrive at the hospital during the tragedy. When the Japanese aircraft roared overhead, he assumed it was some sort of exercise that the hospital was conducting and thought it best to go to the hospital.

He remembers what it was like to be a young doctor on the scene. “It was over in a few hours,” Hardaway said. “It was completely unexpected and we were totally unprepared for it.”

Upon his arrival at North Sector General Hospital in Schofield Barracks, Hawaii, he saw four Soldiers who had been virtually blown apart. “I could hear bombs going off at Wheeler Field about a mile away, and for the first time I realized that this really wasn’t a drill,” said Hardaway.

In response to the severe injuries, he instructed the chief of radiology to send the severely injured Soldiers to the operating room knowing the chief of surgery was on his way.

In a state of emergency, Hardaway passed the “big” cases to the more experienced chief of surgery, while he dealt with arm, leg and head wounds. His first patient had a severe head trauma with the brain exposed. He recalled thinking, “I wondered what the ‘big’ cases were like over in the operating room.”

After working all night treating wounded Soldiers, the next morning he was feeling tired, hot and depressed. “At least 100 wounded Soldiers were still awaiting treatment. I had no idea where Lee (his wife) was or if she was safe,” said Hardaway.

Several days later, a chaplain came to visit Hardaway with a note from Lee in hand. His wife gave no indication of whether she was safe; it simply read, “Go back to the quarters and let Val out,” referring to their little Boston bull terrier.

“Someone had the radio playing, and I heard President Roosevelt speaking to Congress, asking to declare war on Japan,” said Hardaway. He remembers “The Star-Spangled Banner” playing.

“When it came to the line, ‘the bombs bursting in air gave proof through the night that our flag was still there,’ I looked out and, by golly, the flag was still there,” said Hardaway.

Knowing the flag was still waving instilled a fresh motivating energy in Hardaway, and he went back to work for 48 straight hours to take care of all the casualties.



U.S. Navy photo

View looking up “Battleship Row” Dec. 7, 1941, after the Japanese attack. The sunken and burning USS Arizona is in the center, and to the left are the USS Tennessee and the sunken USS West Virginia.

Reflecting back on the event, Hardaway thinks of the medical advancements made during the 64 years since the attack. Today, the Institute of Surgical Research is revisiting Hardaway’s research on shock and how to treat it.

“He had a number of very interesting ideas. It pays to be reverent to our elders

and their wisdom. The study of shock and how to best treat shock is very relevant to what we are engaged in today,” said Bryan Jordan, research nurse at the Institute of Surgical Research. Jordan and Andriy Batchinsky, a research scientist at the institute, will be engaged in further developing Hardaway’s ideas.

Valero corporate chef Fausto Cuevas oversees each plate served to the Soldiers in the Valero corporate dining room.



Valero salutes troops, serves feast



Photos by Phil Reidinger



(From left) Maj. John Pearson and Sgt. 1st Class Wendell Mullen present Valero employees Raymond Hernandez and Rebecca Castillo a 32nd Medical Brigade plaque thanking them for organizing the company's "Troops at Valero" Thanksgiving Day activities. Valero employees welcomed 150 Soldiers from the 232nd and 187th Medical Battalions.

(Above) Valero's corporate logistics operations vice president Paul Brochu was among 200 Valero employees who treated Soldiers to a traditional Thanksgiving Day dinner to include widescreen football and entertainment by the Valero employee band at the company's corporate headquarters in San Antonio.

(Right) Winson Low, executive director for Health Safety and Environment, welcomes Pfc. Christopher Gregory, Pvt. JenniLynn Smith and Pfc. Sarah Hanners, who are assigned to C Company, 187th Medical Battalion.





Magician David Blaine performs “street magic” Nov. 22 for the patients and staff at Brooke Army Medical Center’s Amputee Care Center.

Magician casts his spell on BAMC

Story and photo by Nelia Schrum
Brooke Army Medical Center Public Affairs

International man of mystery, David Blaine, stopped by Brooke Army Medical Center Nov. 22 to perform “street magic” for the wounded warriors recovering at the hospital.

Blaine performed three shows at BAMC – in the Amputee Care Center, the Burn Center and the hospital auditorium – for different groups of patients.

Well known for his on-the-spot magic tricks, Blaine thrilled his BAMC audience with his street-style magic as he moved about the rooms performing sleight of hand and card tricks for the patients.

Internationally famous for changing the face of magic, Blaine’s magic has been featured on ABC with 15 million viewers tuning in.

Blaine is often called the “Ice Guy” – after freezing himself in a solid block of ice for three days in 2000. One BAMC patient from New York, Marine Cpl. Merlin German, watched Blaine as he emerged from the ice block in Times Square. Now recovering from burns sustained in the Global War on Terrorism, German was pleased Blaine took the time to come see the wounded.

“He was very inspiring to me,” German said, adding that Blaine, who invited him and his parents to a show in New York after he recovers, now sees him as a friend.

After his Nov. 22 shows, Blaine said he was so moved by the Soldiers that he returned Nov. 23 and Friday to personally visit with them.

Sgt. Kevin Downs was one of the patients who received a personal visit from Blaine as a special birthday gift.

“I was very surprised and appreciative of David Blaine’s visit to support our wounded Soldiers,” said Downs. “I will always remember my 21st birthday because David and everyone else in the room sang ‘Happy Birthday’ to me.”

Blaine, who has performed on Oprah and for presidents, picked up a new fan base with his visit to BAMC.

Army band spreads goodwill music

By Cheryl Harrison
Fort Sam Houston Public Information Office

Being in today’s Army conjures up images of Soldiers in combat, marching to cadence, or perhaps operating a helicopter.

Another important position sometimes overlooked or considered extra duty is playing a musical instrument in the Army band.

Fort Sam Houston’s Army Medical Command Band, as it is formally called, consists of 39 highly qualified musicians. Each Soldier musician has been through a required audition that entails sight reading, scales and performing a piece or two of music on the instrument of their choice.

“Although this career is fun, highly visible and great for morale, a lot of people don’t realize we must still maintain the strict Army standards of being a Soldier,” said Spc. Elizabeth Niblett. “We are Soldiers in the Army, but our (military occupational specialty) is playing music with the band.”

Being a member of the band requires dedication, a love for music and a lot of practice.

The sounds of music can be heard from Building 199, where rehearsals are held several times a week. Chief Warrant Officer William Brazier, band commander and director, takes each section of the band through rigorous and, more often than not, complicated compositions.

Fort Sam Houston’s band is not strictly a marching band, although that is one aspect of the group. Different situations require different groups, whether it’s a jazz ensemble for a small gathering or a rock band for a party function. Other groups include a Latin ensemble and a Dixie band. There are a few vocalists in the band, and they are used for some numbers, but it is not a prerequisite.

Being part of the band requires long schedules, not only days, but late into the evenings, and most holidays. They not only entertain, they boost the morale of their fellow Soldiers and support the mission of the Army through their music.

“The band does not have a nor-



Photo by Cheryl Harrison

(From left) Under the direction of Chief Warrant Officer William Brazier, Staff Sgt. Debroh Chapa and Sgt. Christine Calkins on clarinets and Spc. Elizabeth Niblett on the flute play during a recent groundbreaking ceremony.

mal duty schedule,” said Staff Sgt. Jeremy Brown, a former cargo specialist. “We are the first on the field and the last off the

field,” Brown added.
The band, either in its entirety or in part, can be found at just about every

See **ARMY BAND** on Page 9

Army band

Continued from Page 8

deployment and homecoming ceremony, as well as other post ceremonies, such as changes of command, groundbreaking ceremonies and occasionally during lunch at the Sam Houston Club.

In addition to supporting post activities, the band members act as goodwill ambassadors within the San Antonio community. “They support about 75 to 100 commitments each year, with our busiest time being Fiesta,” said Staff Sgt. Noel Miles, operations, NCO in charge. From local parades, such as

the one on Veterans Day, to small town parades in Sommerset, Texas, they entertain at a variety of events including a ceremony in the state capitol of Austin, Texas, last year.

The band members also stay active during the holiday season.

Experience the sound of the holiday season at the band’s upcoming holiday concert Dec. 12 at 7:30 p.m. at the Scottish Rite Cathedral, 308 Ave. E at Fourth Street, in downtown San Antonio. The event will feature a guest appearance by the Texas Children’s Choir. It is a free concert and reservations are not required.



Photo by Phil Reidinger

Chief Warrant Officer William Brazier leads the band during the Veterans Day parade in downtown San Antonio.



Photo by Elaine Wilson

The band played many patriotic numbers during the Veterans Day ceremonies at the Fort Sam Houston National Cemetery.



Photo by Cheryl Harrison

Spc. Micheal Eubanks and Staff Sgt. Adrian Ramon find something to laugh about during rehearsal. Both play the saxophone in the band.

TROOP SALUTE

232nd Medical Battalion



Soldier of the Week

Name: Pvt. Sawyer Braun
Unit: B Company
Hometown: Aberdeen, S.D.
Future plans: Graduate the 91W combat medic course with honors, retire from the Army and develop a career in emergency medicine in the civilian sector
Reasons for joining: For the respect and appreciation of average people and for the numerous opportunities the Army has to offer



Junior Leader of the Week

Name: Pfc. Tierra Dozier
Unit: B Company
Hometown: Gainesville, Fla.
Future plans: Get promoted to specialist at my first duty station and make a difference as a medic; go to medical school and become a pediatrician; and have a family
Reasons for joining: To experience the Soldier’s role in our country’s freedom and try my best at defending what makes our nation the best

Family housing upgrades, build community amenities

The Fort Sam Houston Family Housing, Limited Partnership property management division, is committed to ensuring residents have safe and upgraded community amenities, housing officials said.

For example, division employees recently eliminated safety hazards and replaced broken parts of existing structures in playgrounds. They also cleaned, added trash receptacles and provided overall maintenance of the play areas.

Employees constantly monitor playgrounds for repair or service needs. A plan for future playground areas should be completed in the next two weeks.

Three resident centers are also planned. The conversion and renovation of the former Officers’ Club into the 13,860 square-foot

main resident center is scheduled to begin in the first quarter of 2006 and be completed by the fourth quarter. The historical upstairs section will be converted into office space.

Two additional resident centers with pools, walking and running trails, sport courts and tot lots will be built: one in the Watkins Terrace Village and the other in the new Harris Heights Village development. Construction of the Harris Heights Village resident center has been advanced, and is scheduled for completion in 2006. Construction of the Watkins Terrace Village resident center is scheduled to start in 2008.

For more information, visit <http://www.sam-houstonlpc.com>.
(Source: Residential Communities Initiative)

Not so harmless fun

Computer misuse invites system compromise

By Ed Beemer
G6 Information Assurance Office

ARLINGTON, Va. — The next song you download may put your unit, your clearance, your job or even your life at risk.

Whether you are doing it from a newsgroup, illegal site or a legitimate music provider, it potentially unlocks the door for intruders. The same is true for other related activity.

Unauthorized use of a government computer or the installation of unapproved or illegal software invite system compromises.

Downloading music or videos, chatting, playing online games or engaging in similar activities on a government computer is not only an illegal use of government resources, but more importantly, it puts information and people at risk.

What might seem like an innocent way to kill free time could allow aggressive, malicious software or intruders directly into the system. This activity often requires downloading unauthorized software onto an Army computer, a clear violation of AR25-2. Installation of unauthorized Peer to Peer, or P2P, applications is strictly forbidden and, network monitoring is being conducted to identify illegal activities associated with users performing such activity.

This problem is widespread, even in the civilian world. Five major Internet companies have formed a coalition to put a stop to sites and advertisers that knowingly download spyware, adware, trackware and other malicious software.

Federal and state laws are being enacted to address such activity, as well. While marketing companies generate most of this software development, some applications are capable of recording every keystroke and sending that information to unknown and often untraceable entities.

Industry sources estimate that about 91 percent of civilian computer users have made some

modification to their systems to avoid this type of software. They do it to avoid ads; military personnel need to do it to protect information and our forces.

Misuse of government equipment is a punishable offense. But, that is not the only crime. More importantly, the use of such subversive technologies exposes your computer, your network, your unit and yourself to cyber attacks, intrusions and data exfiltration that could end up costing lives.

If you have downloaded the latest tune or selected your team for fantasy football, the way you log onto your computer, the next briefing you prepare, your sensitive personal information or your unit’s capabilities could be sent directly to a terrorist, hacker or insurgent group. This information is sent without any indications or warnings, and once sent can never be recovered.

Additionally, 9.9 million individuals were affected by identity theft last year. That official document saved on your system may contain personal information such as your Social Security number that can be unknowingly shared as a result of the illegal software installation.

Personal information is usually sold or traded in underground communities, and accounts or credit cards are rapidly established under your identity. It will cost you thousands of dollars and potentially years to correct. And, if any download activity violates federal copyright laws, it carries a secondary penalty.

The Army is taking this very seriously because of the potential harm to our forces. Every Soldier must realize it is their duty to protect their fellow Soldiers and not engage in unauthorized online activities.

If you’re involved in such activity, it’s time to stop and think of the consequences.

Is an online game or a few new songs worth the risk?

SPORTS

Fort Sam Houston Golf Club receives \$3.1 million facelift

By Shasta Bell
Directorate of Morale, Welfare and Recreation

The Fort Sam Houston Golf Club, one of the largest Army golf course operations, will undergo a \$3.1 million renovation starting in January.

The project will include the redesign and rebuild of 36 holes of tees and greens at the Salado and Loma championship golf courses.

Salado Course will be renovated in the first phase of the project, which is expected to take nine months. The second phase of the project, the renovation of the Loma Course, will begin January 2007 and be completed October 2007. The project was planned in two phases to minimize disruption to golfers.

Although the primary focus of the golf club's renovation is to rebuild tees and greens, additional improvements are also planned during this period. Nine holes of concrete cart paths on Salado Course will be built, and the bridges on Salado holes 3, 14 and 18 will be replaced.

Upgrades to the tees and greens are necessary since renovations to Salado Course have not occurred since the 1970s and since the early 1980s at the Loma Course.

"This is indeed an exciting and histori-



Courtesy photo

Golfers practice at the driving range at the Fort Sam Houston Golf Club.

cal time in our (golf) club's history," said Richard Bartel, Fort Sam Houston Golf Club facility manager.

For the duration of the project, a maximum of 18 holes will be available for play on a daily basis. The Fort Sam Houston Golf Advisory Council is in the process of adjusting tee times and tournament policies to accommodate patrons of the golf

club during the construction period.

A groundbreaking ceremony and an open forum will mark the start of the renovation project in January. At the open forum, the community will have the opportunity to meet and discuss the renovation project with the project's architect and contractor/builder.

Kevin Tucker Golf Course Design

Group of Nashville, Tenn., was selected as the architect for the project, and Landscape Unlimited Inc. of Lincoln, Neb., is the project's contractor/builder.

"We are looking forward to working with Landscape Unlimited and the Kevin Tucker Design Group. Both are leaders in the golf course construction industry," Bartel said.

Bartel said the golf club will provide up-to-date information to the public throughout the renovation project. Project updates will be posted on the Morale, Welfare and Recreation Web site at www.portsamhoustonmwr.com and in MWR and golf club newsletters and local newspapers. A story board will also be on display in the John J. McCarthy Clubhouse so patrons can track the project's progress.

The Army's Installation Management Agency's Southwest Region is funding the Golf renovation initiative with non-appropriated dollars generated by business operations at installations across the Southwest Region.

Fort Sam Houston is one of several courses in the IMA Southwest Region scheduled for renovation. Other courses to be renovated include Fort Sill, Okla.; Fort Bliss, Texas; Fort Hood, Texas; Fort Polk, La.; and Fort Huachuca, Ariz.

Soldiers, families receive discounts for All-American Bowl

By Annette M. Fournier
Army News Service

WASHINGTON, D.C. — Discount tickets are available to Soldiers, veterans and family members for the sixth annual Army All-American Bowl to be played Jan. 7 at the Alamodome in San Antonio.

The game brings together 78 of America’s best high school senior football players from across the United States to compete in this nationally televised bowl game between All-Americans from the East and the West.

Soldiers and veterans can purchase two-for-one tickets and family deals with a voucher. Vouchers can be downloaded from www.usarmyallamericanbowl.com and can only be redeemed at the Alamodome box office. For those unable to travel to San Antonio, the game will be televised live on NBC beginning at noon, CST, Jan. 7.

Four hundred football players are nominated for the game, and the bowl’s official selection team of Tom Lemming of CSTV and USA Today, and Scout.com, the Web’s largest independent sports network, select the top 78 players. The players are divid-

ed equally to represent the East and West.

The selection of 2006 U.S. Army All-Americans began Sept. 14 at the Pentagon with the public announcement of student-athlete Anton Wallace, of Maurice J. McDonough High School, Pomfret, Md. The national selection tour continues across the nation introducing All-Americans from various states.

“The U.S. Army and SportsLink, Inc., have partnered together to create what has become the Super Bowl of high school sports,” said Garrett Shea, director of the U.S. Army All-American Bowl. “This game is the showcase that introduces to America tomorrow’s superstars of collegiate football and the NFL. The bowl continues to give fans their first look at the future of football.”

The event will also showcase the country’s top underclassmen’s abilities in the U.S. Army National Combine. Other events include the U.S. Army All-American Cheer Bowl and the U.S. Army Band Competition featuring top marching bands immediately following the game.

For more information, visit www.usarmyallamericanbowl.com.

SPORTS BRIEFS . . .

Intramural sports

Fall leagues are forming now. Send letters of intent for the sports listed below to: Attn: Earl Young, 1212 Stanley Road, Suite 20, Fort Sam Houston, TX 78234-5020. For more information, call 221-1180 or e-mail earl.young@samhouston.army.mil.

Intramural bowling

The intramural bowling league is forming now. Letters of intent are due Friday. A coaches meeting will be Dec. 14 at 2:30 p.m. at the bowling center. The season starts Jan. 9.

Intramural billiards

Letters of intent are due Saturday. A coaches meeting will be Jan. 9 at 1 p.m. at the Jimmy Brought Fitness Center. The season starts Jan. 19.

Intramural pingpong

Letters of intent are due Saturday. A coaches meeting will be Jan. 9 at 1 p.m. at the Jimmy Brought Fitness Center. The season starts Jan. 17.

Golf association seeks new members

The Fort Sam Houston Women’s Golf Association is looking for new members. All eligible women golfers are invited to join. The association, which plays Tuesday mornings, offers both a 9-hole group and an 18-hole group. For more information on the first group, call Barbara Rhea at 490-2727, and for the second group, call Nita Whiting at 653-0418.

Nation watches for signs of ‘bird flu’

By Capt. Bonnie Jeanice
Heidelberg Medical Department Activity

HEIDELBERG, Germany — People may have heard about the “bird flu” on the television and turned the channel or read a headline about it in the newspaper but turned the page. They may think, “It doesn’t pertain to me or it won’t reach the United States.” People should take time to learn about the bird flu and prepare themselves and their family.

Bird flu is an infection caused by avian influenza, a flu virus that occurs naturally among wild birds. Birds throughout the world carry this virus, but normally it does not cause them to get sick. However, this particular strain of avian influenza is very contagious among birds and can kill some domesticated animals, including chickens, ducks, turkeys and, most recently, geese, swans and pigs.

For one bird to get ill from another, infected birds shed the flu virus in their saliva, nasal secretions and feces. Susceptible birds become infected when they have contact with contaminated excretions or surfaces that are contaminated with excretions.

The risk of getting bird flu is usually low for most people because the virus occurs mainly among birds and does not usually infect humans. During an outbreak of bird flu, for example, among domesticated chickens, there is a risk to people who have contact with these birds or surfaces that may have been contaminated with excretions from these chickens. Countries that

have experienced bird flu cases are Cambodia, Indonesia, Hong Kong, Thailand and Vietnam. There have been 118 documented cases with 61 resulting in death since 1997. Currently, the United States has no documented cases.

Symptoms of the bird flu in humans include flu-like symptoms (fever, cough, sore throat and muscle aches), eye infections, pneumonia, severe respiratory diseases and life-threatening complications like organ failure.

Vaccines effective against the bird flu are not yet available. A vaccine for this strain of flu is under development in many countries, but they do not expect it to be available for several months. Two antiviral drugs that can reduce the severity and duration of the bird flu are Tamiflu and Relenza. These are most effective if given within 48 hours of initial onset of symptoms.

The United States has monitoring systems in place to catch an outbreak early. Health departments are watching for any signs of the bird flu throughout the medical systems in the United States. They are prepared to diagnose and prevent the spread of the bird flu if the disease occurs in the country.

The best prevention against bird flu is being careful when handling and cooking poultry. It is also recommended to get an annual flu shot and use good hygiene to keep immune systems at their best.

For more information, visit the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention Web site at <http://www.cdc.gov> or the World Health Organization Web site at www.WHO.int.

Blood is fluid of life

The Brooke Army Medical Center Blood Bank is running critically low on AB negative blood.
Akeroyd Blood Donor Center is reaching out to you for your support to accomplish a mission for life.
To donate blood now, call the Akeroyd Blood Donor Center at 295-4655 or 295-4989.



Army Community Service

Family Advocacy Program December Class Schedule

Class	Date	Time
Anger Management I and II	Monday and 12	11 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.
Basics of Breast-feeding	Friday	10 to 11:30 a.m.
Boys Only! Ages 9 to 11	Wednesday	3 to 4 p.m.
Building Effective Anger Management Skills Series (3 to 4)	Today and 8	11 a.m. to 1 p.m.
Commander's Training	15	8 to 9:30 a.m.
Coping with Difficult People	12	1 to 2:30 p.m.
Getting Ready for Childbirth 1 and 2	8 and 15	9 a.m. to 12 p.m.
Girl Talk! Ages 9 to 11	14	10 to 11 a.m.
Healthy Pregnancy	9	9 a.m. to 12 p.m.
Helping Us Grow Securely (H.U.G.S.) Playgroup	Tuesday and 13	9 to 11 a.m.
S.T.E.P. Program for Parents of School Age Children	Today, 8 and 15	2 to 3:30 p.m.
S.T.E.P. Program for Parents of Teens	Tuesday, 13 and 20	11 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.
Stress Management I and II	Tuesday and 13	1 to 2:30 p.m.
Truth or Consequences?	Tuesday and 13	4 to 6 p.m.
You and Your Baby	Wednesday and 14	8 a.m. to 12 p.m.


Class space is limited. To register or for more information, call the Army Community Service Family Advocacy Program at 221-0349 or 221-2418.

Health benefits open season


The Federal Employees Health Benefits and Federal Flexible Spending Account open seasons run through Dec. 12. Employees can make open season enrollments, changes or cancellations through the Army Benefits Center-Civilian Web site at <https://www.abc.army.mil> or by calling (877) 276-9287. Comparison booklets are available at <http://www.opm.gov/insure/health>.

Smoke-free, courageous forever

Attend smoking cessation classes in the Health Promotion Center and learn how to find the courage to give up the nicotine habit forever, whether you smoke, dip or chew. Become one of our graduates and earn your “wings.” Visit the Health Promotion Center, Room L31-9v, Brooke Army Medical Center, or call 916-3352 or 916-5538



A health care professional's greatest calling is to serve the Soldiers that defend our Nation's freedom.



The United States Army offers virtually every health care specialty found in the civilian sector. Call your Army Health Care Recruiter to learn about opportunities for direct commissions, scholarships, internships, and residencies at (210) 692-7376 healthcare.goarmy.com

RELIGIOUS HAPPENINGS . . .

Holiday musical festival, celebration

The public is invited to celebrate the birth of Christ through song, praise, dance and rejoicing. The celebration is Dec. 9 at 7 p.m. at the Dodd Field Chapel. Ministry teams from Fort Sam Houston, Randolph Air Force Base, True Vision Baptist Church, Coliseum Baptist Church, New Genesis Christian Center and St. Paul United Methodist Men of Faith Chorus will participate. The guest speaker is retired Chaplain Edward K. Maney. For more information, call Chaplain Roy Walker at 221-5943 or Erwin Kaplan, music celebration chairperson, at 637-7654.

Chapel holiday events

Everyone is invited to help decorate the Installation Chaplain’s Office for the holidays Saturday from 10 a.m. to 12 p.m. Enjoy refreshments, seasonal music and fun. The first annual children’s Christmas program for the 11:01 a.m. contemporary service will be Dec. 18 during the service. Children are encouraged to attend and be a part of the program. For more information, call 295-2096.

Chapel youth group

The Fort Sam Houston chapel youth group meets every Sunday from 5 to 7 p.m. at the Main Post Chapel. The group is open to seventh through 12th graders, and is sponsored by the chapel congregations. The theme, “Where Faith and Life Meet,” is incorporated in fun activities, Bible applications and off-post events. The group will attend the Pure Excitement seminar and concert Sunday. Adults are invited to help and join in the fun. For more information, call Joanne Benson at 599-0157.

Officers’ Christian Fellowship

The Officers’ Christian Fellowship meets on the first and third Sunday of every month at 1008 Gorgas Circle, near the old Brooke Army Medical Center building. Study is from 4:30 to 7 p.m. and includes a home-cooked meal. Participants are studying “The Minor Prophets.” For more information, call Lt. Col. Robert Griffith at 226-1295 or 221-8857 or e-mail rgriffith3@satx.rr.com or robert.griffith1@amedd.army.mil.

**For the chapel services schedule, visit
www.samhouston.army.mil/chaplain.**

INTERFAITH CALENDAR . . .

December

Sunday, 11 and 18 - Sundays of Advent continue; Christian time of preparation for observing the birth of Jesus Christ.

8 - Bodhi Day (Rohatsu) ** - Buddhist celebration of the time when Prince Gautama took his place under the Bodhi tree, vowing to remain there until he attained supreme enlightenment.

8 - Immaculate Conception - Catholic Christian day of celebrating the belief that Mary, mother of Jesus, was preserved from original sin. A day of obligation and required church attendance.

** Local customs may vary on this date.



Dave and Barbara George meet their Thanksgiving guests, Spc. Carla Luke (far left) and Pvt. Sierra Kirkland, for the first time. Both Soldiers are from C Company, 187th Medical Battalion.



Maj. Gen. George Weightman, installation commander, shakes Pvt. Sierra Kirkland's hand at the Soldier pick-up site Thursday. Dave and Barbara George invited Kirkland and Spc. Carla Luke to dinner as part of the 32nd Medical Brigade-sponsored Mission Thanksgiving.



Barbara George gives trainees Spc. Carla Luke (left) and Pvt. Sierra Kirkland a tour of her 150-year-old home.



Spc. Carla Luke helps set the table for Thanksgiving dinner at the George home.



Dave George prepares the turkey for Thanksgiving dinner.



Barbara George teaches her guests, Pvt. Sierra Kirkland (left) and Spc. Carla Luke, how to dress a turkey with greens. A thousand Soldiers from the 187th and 232nd Medical Battalions and 500 families participated in Mission Thanksgiving, which pairs Soldiers with local families for the holiday.

Mission Thanksgiving

Local families give Soldiers taste of home cooking

Story and photos by Elaine Wilson
Fort Sam Houston Public Information Office

Pvt. Sierra Kirkland, a 91J supply trainee from the 187th Medical Battalion, figured she would either be eating at the post dining facility or cleaning her room on Thanksgiving. She was, after all, thousands of miles from her home in Georgia and her traditional family feast.

Her drill sergeant, however, had a different plan in mind. He offered her a chance to be the guest of a local family and, instead of cleaning or dining out, share in a home-made Thanksgiving meal.

“I was nervous at first and wondered what I’d say to people I didn’t know,” Kirkland said. “But then, I thought, ‘I sure hope these people can cook.’”

Kirkland was just one of the thousand Soldiers who enjoyed home cooking on the holiday thanks to a program sponsored by the 32nd Medical Brigade called Mission Thanksgiving.

The long-standing program pairs two Soldiers with a local family for the day. About 500 families opened their homes to 1,000 Soldiers from the 187th and 232nd Medical Battalions this year.

“A lot of Soldiers don’t know what to expect. Some may not look forward to it at first,” said Chaplain (Maj.). Jonathan Etterbeek, chaplain for the 32nd Medical Brigade. “But, when they get out there they appreciate it and have a great time.”

The families took a short break from cooking to attend a briefing on post, then waited patiently in long lines to meet their Soldiers.

“We never have a shortage of families willing to participate,” said Etterbeek. “It really shows the support the community has for the military. Many families do it year after year.”

This was the fourth year of participation for Dave and Barbara George, who took Kirkland and her battle buddy, Spc. Carla Luke, to their home in Marion.

As a military family, “We can look back and remember what it’s like to be away from our family during the holidays,” Barbara said. “Mission Thanksgiving is a great program; it gets Soldiers out of the barracks and into a family environment.

“Plus, my daughter always says I would need to invite an Army to eat all that I cook, so I figured I might as well invite the Army in,” she joked.

Along with the families, battalion commanders, company commanders, first ser-



After a turkey dinner with all the trimmings, Barbara George offers her guests some pie for dessert.

geants and drill sergeants also volunteered their time, helping to coordinate the massive match-up effort.

“Their participation shows great command support of the program,” Etterbeek said. “We couldn’t ask for better post and community support.”

Barbara’s husband, Dave, said a home-cooked meal is the least they can do. “Our son is in Iraq and many of these Soldiers will be deploying too,” he said. “For us, this is a part of supporting the troops.”

For Luke and Kirkland, they said they were just grateful for a home-cooked meal. “I got a great meal and I got to watch football,” Kirkland said. “That’s Thanksgiving to me.”

Post Pulse: What is your favorite December holiday tradition in San Antonio?



“My family and I, we go to the Riverwalk to see all the lights, but we also like to visit Canyon Lake, New Braunfels and Fredericksburg, Texas, to see all their Christmas lights.”

Carmen Hoffman



“I enjoy going to see the Mariachi Vargas Extravaganza downtown.”

Maj. Anthony Perkins



“Our family takes a drive out into the country to go see all the Christmas decorative lightings.”

Linda Harrison



“We have family get togethers at home with lots of food.”

Marcy Lempe

Hang up

Drivers are no longer allowed to use hand-held or hands-free communication devices such as cell phones and two-way radios or electronic devices such as data assistants while driving a vehicle. People can view the policy at <http://fsh-intranet.amedd.army.mil>, click on “Cell Phone Policy.” For more information, call the Fort Sam Houston Safety Office at 221-3866.



Ammunition supply closures

The Fort Sam Houston Ammunition Supply Point will be closed on the following dates for inventory in 2006: Jan. 9 to 13, March 27 to 31, June 26 to 30 and Sept. 11 to 15. For emergency requests, call Vanessa C. Alford at 221-1065 or 669-5173.

MWR

Recreation and Fitness

Garage sale

Clean out your closets for the next garage sale Saturday from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. at the MacArthur Pavilion parking lot. This event is in conjunction with the Christmas Along the Corridor from 1 to 5 p.m. There is no cost; however, a seller must have a valid Department of Defense ID card. To pre-register, call 221-2307 or 221-2601.



Boxing match at fitness center

Fort Sam Houston Morale, Welfare and Recreation and First Command Financial Planning present “Boxing at the Brought” Dec. 10 in the main gymnasium of the Jimmy Brought Fitness Center. Doors open at 5 p.m. and the first bout is at 6 p.m. The boxers are military and civilian men and women registered with USA Boxing. For more information, call 221-1342. MWR will provide giveaways from Army and Air Force Exchange Service and Calm Day Spa.



Auto Craft Shop

Get your car winter ready with a free winterization check at the Auto Craft Shop. Check includes anti-freeze levels, inspection of all belts and examination of the engine. For more information, call 221-3962.

Cycling class

The Jimmy Brought Fitness Center offers free cycling classes Tuesdays and Thursdays at noon and Wednesdays at 4:45 p.m.

Dining and Entertainment

Sam Houston Club, 224-2721

Sunday Brunch

The Sam Houston Club will have a brunch Sunday and Dec. 18 from 10 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. Cost is \$11.95 for members, \$13.95 for non-members, \$6.95 for children ages 6 to 11 and free for children 5 and under. For reservations, call 224-2721.

Lunch buffet

The Sam Houston Club features an “All You Can Eat” lunch buffet, which includes beverage, deluxe salad bar, soup and dessert Monday through Friday from

11 a.m. to 1 p.m. The cost is \$5.95 for members and \$6.95 for nonmembers.

Bingo

Play bingo every Thursday and Friday; doors open at 5 p.m., and Saturday, the doors open at 11 a.m. Youth 10 and older may play when accompanied by an adult. There is a free buffet for all bingo players.

Bowling Center, 221-3683

Bowl-A-Jam

Bowl-A-Jam is Saturdays from 7 to 10 p.m. The cost is \$8 per person, which includes shoes and one order of fries per lane. Stop by for music and fun.

Golf Club, 221-4388

Golf lessons

Private customized and personalized instructions are offered at the golf course.



Around the Corner Frame Shop

The Around the Corner Frame Shop is located at 407 Dickman Road, on the lower level of the former Officers’ Club building. In addition to framing service, the shop offers specialty items like engravings, medals, trophies, combat medic statues, military coin racks and flag cases. The engraving shop now has post

housing door tags for \$15. For more information, call 224-7125 or 224-7126.

Vera’s Barbershop

Vera’s Barbershop is located at 407 Dickman Road (former Officers’ Club), and specializes in military cuts. For more information, call 223-3664.

Harlequin Dinner Theatre

The Harlequin Dinner Theatre will feature “Sorry! Wrong Chimney!”, a yuletide farce by Jack Sharkey and Leo W. Sears, Wednesday through Saturday evenings through Dec. 22. Discounts for military and students are available. For reservations, call the box office at 222-9694.

MWR Ticket Office

The ticket office has discount tickets available for various events. Alamo Bowl tickets are available for the Dec. 28 game; tickets are on sale through Dec. 18 for \$9. Tickets are also available for the free Band of the Blue Air Force concert, “Holiday in Blue,” Dec. 11 to 13 at Laurie Auditorium. Tickets at the door are first come, first served. Season passes are available for SeaWorld and Fiesta Texas. For more information, call 226-1663 or visit www.fortsamhoustonmwr.com.

MWR CHILD AND YOUTH SERVICES



Youth Happenings

Youth Services volunteers

Youth Services is looking for volunteers to assist with youth programs such as golf, roller hockey, tennis, computers and arts and crafts. Volunteers with typing or filing skills are needed for the administrative office. Parents and teens can also volunteer to help in the concession stands Saturdays during football season. For more information, call the Youth Center at 221-3502.

Free after-school program

Youth Services offers a free after-school program for sixth to 10th graders Monday through Friday until 6 p.m. YS will pick up children from the school (either the elementary or the high school). At the Youth Center, they will have a snack, work on homework, participate in clubs and do fun, innovative projects at the 4-H club, photography club and the

computer tech club. Youth must be registered with Child and Youth Services for an \$18 annual fee, but there is no cost for the program. For more information, call 221-3502 or 221-4871.

Cooking classes

The Youth Center offers cooking classes Fridays from 5 to 6 p.m. For more information, call 221-3502.

Parent News

PAC meeting

The next Child and Youth Services Parent Advisory Council meeting will be Dec. 20 from 11:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. at the Child Development Center, 2530 Funtston. Lunch will be provided. This is CYS parents’ opportunity to learn about upcoming events, meet staff and address concerns.

Youth Services registration

Youth Services registration will be Mondays through Fridays from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. at the Roadrunner Community Center, Central Registration, Building 2797, Stanley Road. To register, parents need to bring current shot records, name and telephone number of two local emergency contacts, physical exam or well

baby check completed within the last 12 months with physician’s signature affixed, child’s Social Security number and proof of total family income such as a current leave and earnings statement or pay stub. There is an \$18 annual registration fee per child, maximum \$40 per family of three or more registering participants. For more information, call Roxanne Lacy at 221-4871 or Arlene Alvarez at 221-1723.

ArmyFCC Online

Fort Sam Houston Family Child Care Program is now on ArmyFCC Online, a Web-based information and referral tool for parents interested in FCC. The Web site includes both a public and a private section describing each installation’s program and more information on providers. Soldiers and qualified civilians must be registered through Child and Youth Services to benefit from any CYS programs to include FCC. For more information, call Central Registration at 221-4871 or 221-1723.

PCI enrollment opportunity

The Parent Child Incorporated Child Development Center is taking applications for enrollment. This is a free childcare program. Eligibility is based on federal guidelines. For more information, call 221-3788.

Part-day preschool program

Patrons interested in the part-day preschool program at the Child Development Center can call Central Registration to register at 221-4871 or 221-1723. Preschool is from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. Monday through Friday. Fees are based on total family income.

Home-based child care

Family Child Care offers home-based child care for ages 4 weeks to 12 years on and off post with certified providers. FCC offers full-day, part-day, before- and after-school care, hourly care, extended hourly care and long-term care. For referral information or child registration, call Central Registration at 221-4871 or 221-1723.

FCC providers

Family Child Care is looking for family members interested in becoming certified FCC providers. There is a no-cost start-up plan. For more information, call 221-3820 or 221-3828.

Check wait list

Patrons on the full-time day care wait list at the Child Development Center should check their status on the wait list to avoid losing status. To check status, call Central Registration at 221-4871 or 221-1723.

SCHOOL NEWS

Fort Sam Houston Independent School District Weekly Campus Activities – Monday to Dec. 10

Fort Sam Houston Elementary School

Tuesday

Sixth grade holiday concert at Evans Auditorium, 7 p.m.

Wednesday

Early dismissal – kindergarten to fourth grade, 2 p.m.

Early dismissal – fifth and sixth grade, 2:30 p.m.

Dec. 9

Spirit Day

Robert G. Cole Jr./Sr. High School

Monday

Girls’ soccer vs. Antonian at Cole, 4:30 p.m.

Tuesday

Junior high University Interscholastic League contest at Johnson City, 1:30 p.m.

Boys’ basketball vs. Poteet at Cole, 6 and 7:30 p.m.

Girls’ basketball at Bandera, 5 and 6:30 p.m.

Intermediate and beginners holiday concert at Evans Auditorium, 6:30 p.m.

Girls’ and boys’ soccer vs. St. Mary’s Hall at Cole, 5 and 7 p.m.

Wednesday

Junior high UIL contest at Johnson City, 1:30 p.m.

Dec. 8

Storytellers at fine arts building, all day

Boys’ varsity basketball tournament at Poteet, TBA

Girls’ basketball tournament at Bandera, 10:30 a.m.

Dec. 9

Varsity choir, WOAI television performance, all day

Boy Scout meeting in cafeteria, 5:30 to 8 p.m.

Boys’ varsity basketball tournament at Poteet, TBA

Powder puff football, 7 p.m.

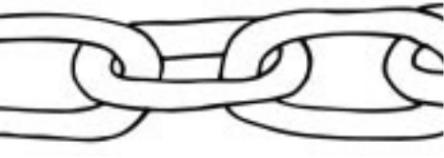
Dec. 10

Boys’ varsity basketball tournament at Poteet, TBA

Girls’ varsity basketball tournament at Bandera, 10:30 a.m.

Academic decathlon practice competition, TBA

Country invitational swim meet at Davis Natatorium



COMMUNITY LINK



Happenings

Trinity University Christmas concert

Trinity University will host its annual Christmas concert Friday at 8 p.m. in Laurie Auditorium at the university and will feature members of the various Trinity choirs, the Trinity symphony orchestra, the symphonic wind ensemble and the Parker Handbell choir. The one-night-only concert is free and open to the public. No tickets or reservations are required. After the concert, audience members will be treated to seasonal music performed by the Trinity jazz ensemble in the lobby of Laurie Auditorium.

Chordsmen Christmas show

The 2005 Chordsmen Christmas show will be Saturday at 3 and 7:30 p.m. at McCallister Auditorium, San Antonio College. Active duty military personnel and students are admitted free. The Chordsmen invite men to sing four-part a cappella harmony with the chorus or as a member of a quartet. The group meets every Monday night from 7 to 10 p.m. at the Western Hills Christian Church, corner of Huebner and Eckert in northwest San Antonio. For more information, call 490-4191 or 340-1110.

Barshop JCC presents ‘Aladdin Jr.’

The Barshop Jewish Community Center and STARZ Youth Performance Troupe, on Northwest Military Highway at Wurzbach Parkway, presents “Aladdin Jr.” Saturday at 7 p.m., Sunday at 12:30 p.m., 2:30 p.m., 5:30 p.m. and 7:30 p.m., and Monday at 7 p.m. Tickets are \$5; reservations are recommended. For more information, call 302-6828.

Arts at Coker yuletide events

Enjoy the sounds of yuletidings featuring the Reagan High School chamber orchestra Wednesday at 12 p.m., and Elaine George Ehlers and Madolyn Douglas Fallis Dec. 14 at 12 p.m. Lunch will be available for \$5 following each concert. Also enjoy Christmas Pops Dec. 11 at 4 p.m. The concerts will be held at the Coker United Methodist Church, 231 E. North Loop Road. The public is invited.

Alamo City marching band concert

The Alamo City Community Marching Band will perform a Christmas concert Saturday at 4 p.m. in Milam Park, across from Santa Rosa Hospital, at Houston and San Saba streets. The concert is free to the public. For more information, call 733-0120.

SCUC ISD hosts planning briefing

The Schertz-Cibolo-Universal City Independent School District invites the community to an information session Dec. 8 at 6:30 p.m. at Dobie Jr. High cafeteria, 395 W. Borgfield Road, Cibolo. Find out the current and future student growth projections and provide input on the district’s future direction and needs. For more information, call SCUC ISD at 945-6200.

Trinity University commencement

Trinity University will hold its winter commencement for 122 graduates and undergraduates Dec. 17 at 2 p.m. in the Margarite B. Parker Chapel. For more information, e-mail Susie Gonzalez at Susie.Gonzalez@Trinity.edu.

Rainbow Kids holiday schedule

The Fort Sam Houston Rainbow Kids will perform at the following times and locations: Friday at 7 p.m. at Universal

City Methodist Church, 70 Winn Ave; Saturday at 2:15 p.m. and 4 p.m. at the Laurels and The Haven, 575 Knights Cross Road; and Dec. 17 at 7 p.m. at the Hacienda Recreation Center, Building 1462. The Rainbow Kids are sponsored by the Fort Sam Houston Youth Activities under the direction of Ron Joy. For more information, call Joy at 348-8014 or 295-2093.

Boerne Christmas walk

The Randolph Roadrunners Volksmarch Club will host a 10K and 5K walk in Boerne, Texas, Saturday. Start at St. John Lutheran Church, 315 E. Rosewood Avenue in Boerne. For more information, call Suzanne Markgraf at 651-9378, e-mail suzannemarkgraf5939@earthlink.net or visit the club Web site at www.geocities.com/randolphroadrunners/.

Johnson City lights spectacular walk

The Selma Pathfinders Volksmarch Club will host a 10K walk Dec. 10 to view the Christmas lights and other events in Johnson City. Start at the Pedernales Electric Cooperative, community room, 201 S. Avenue F, in Johnson City between 5:30 and 6:30 p.m., finish by 9:30 p.m. For more information, call Phyllis Eagan, 496-1402 or e-mail milchene@juno.com.

Deerfield Christmas light walk

The Randolph Roadrunners Volksmarch Club will host a 10K walk Dec. 11 at the Deerfield Subdivision in north San Antonio to view the Christmas light displays. Start at the Deerfield Subdivision Recreation Center between 5:30 and 6:30 p.m., finish by 9:30 p.m. For more information, call Joanne or Carlen Forinash at 493-8543, e-mail cwforinash@aol.com or visit www.geocities.com/randolphroadrunners/.

Professional Development

Army Reserve opportunities

The U.S. Army Reserve is actively recruiting. For more information, call (800) USA-ARMY or visit www.goarmyreserve.com.

Army health care recruiting

A health care professional’s greatest calling is to serve the Soldiers who defend our nation’s freedom. The U.S. Army offers virtually every health care specialty found in the civilian sector. Call an Army health care recruiter to learn about opportunities for direct commissions, scholarships, internships and residencies at 692-7376 or visit www.health-care.goarmy.com.

Green to Gold briefing

The Fort Sam Houston Education Center will provide monthly Green to Gold briefings for Soldiers interested in Green to Gold ROTC scholarships. Capt. Chez Barela, from St. Mary’s University, will be available to answer questions. Briefings will be Monday and Jan. 23 at 11 a.m. and 12 p.m. at Building 2247, next to the education center, in the training room. For more information, call 221-9881.

IO opportunities

Functional Area 30 (Information Operations) seeks highly motivated year

groups 1997-2002 officers for expanding IO opportunities in the divisions, corps and joint positions. Interested officers in year groups 1998-2001 can request career field designation by completing the online preference form at https://www.hrc.army.mil/site/active/opfamdd/cfd_Upcoming_boards.htm”CFD. For more information, call Maj. Gregory Mogavero at (703) 325-5791 or e-mail him at gregory.mogavero@us.army.mil.

Warrant officers needed

The U.S. Army is looking for highly motivated Soldiers, Marines, Sailors and Airmen to fill its warrant officer ranks. Positions are open in all 45 specialties for those who qualify. Applicants with less than 12 years active federal service are encouraged to apply. For more information and forms and documents required to apply, visit the Web site at www.usarec.army.mil/warrant or call DSN 536-0484/0458/0488/0478/0271/1860. The toll free number is (800) 223-3735, ext. 6, and the last four of the phone number.

Resume, interview workshops

The Family Employment Readiness Program will offer a resume writing workshop Wednesday from 9 to 11 a.m. and a job interview skills workshop Dec. 14 from 9 to 11 a.m. at the Roadrunner Community Center. Reservations are requested. A valid military family member ID card is required. For more information, call Gabriele Dias at 221-0516 or Jennifer Swiger at 221-0427.

Free computer training

Family members of active duty military personnel may receive computer training for the job market through the Family Employment Readiness Program. Automated, self-paced training is available on all Microsoft Office programs. Typing instructions are also available in Spanish. For more information, call Gabriele Dias at 221-0516 or Jennifer Swiger at 221-0427.

St. Mary’s University

The St. Mary’s University office at Fort Sam Houston is temporarily operating on a limited schedule. St. Mary’s University offers more than 20 master of arts and master of science degrees as well as community counseling and international relations online degree programs. Spring term begins Jan. 18, and course schedules are available online at www.stmarytx.edu/register. For more information, call 658-4852 or visit with a St. Mary’s representative Wednesday.

Cyber security programs at OLLU

Students interested in information technology careers can now specialize in cyber security through programs offered at Our Lady of the Lake University. In addition to traditional technology courses, students take courses geared toward computer and network security management. An OLLU representative will be at the Fort Sam Houston Education Office Wednesday from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. and Dec. 8 and 16 from 10 a.m. to noon. For more information, visit www.ollusa.edu.

Meetings

Federally Employed Women

The Fort Sam Houston Federally Employed Women Chapter seeks members for its organization. The chapter

meets the second Wednesday of the month. FEW enhances career opportunities for women, maintains a unified and diverse membership and provides opportunities for professional growth through leadership development, education, mentoring and networking. For more information, call Arcelia Longoria at 658-4046 or 823-6344.

Notre Dame Club of San Antonio

The Notre Dame Club will hold a general membership meeting Wednesday at 7 p.m. at the Thousand Oaks Racquet Ball and Fitness Center, 2263 Thousand Oaks. The public is invited.

BOSS seeks single Soldiers

The Better Opportunities for Single Soldiers meets the first and third Wednesday of every month at 1:30 p.m. at the Hacienda Recreation Center. The BOSS committee was established to provide Soldiers input to the commander, who uses the committee’s recommendations to improve single Soldiers’ Morale, Welfare and Recreation programs. For more information, call Staff Sgt. Micaela Reyes at 221-8947.

Volunteer

Shoulder study volunteers

The Army Medical Department Center and School seeks volunteers between the ages of 18 to 50 who are experiencing shoulder pain for a research study on the effects of “thoracic spine manipulation on patients with shoulder impingment.” For more information, call 2nd Lt. Bradley Ritland at 382-9332 or e-mail bradley.ritland@us.army.mil.

Hometown heroes recognition

Time Warner Cable San Antonio seeks nominations for this year’s Hometown Heroes Award Program, recognizing “unsung heroes” from each of the communities it services. Nomination forms are available at all seven of the Time Warner Cable customer service centers and online at www.twc-sa.com, under the “In the Community” link. Nomination forms are due by Friday. For more information, call the Hometown Heroes Hotline at 828-3086, ext. 36, or visit www.twc-sa.com.

Girl Scouts seek volunteers

Girl Scouts of the San Antonio area are looking for adults to lead Girl Scout troops in the community. Help young girls grow up to be strong, confident and compassionate. Volunteers do not have to have a daughter in a troop to help. For more information, call Carla Mendez at 349-2404, ext. 217, or e-mail cmendez@sagirlscouts.org.

BAMC needs volunteers

Brooke Army Medical Center seeks volunteer drivers for its caremobiles, which transport patients from the BAMC parking lot to the clinic entrance. For more information, call Jessica Veilluex at 916-3862.

SAMM volunteer opportunity

San Antonio Metropolitan Ministry, a nonprofit organization that runs the largest homeless shelter and transitional housing program in San Antonio, seeks volunteers for its various charity missions. For more information on upcoming projects, call Betty Schwartz at 340-0302, ext. 224.

FORT FREEBIES



Freebies are published on a first-come, first-served basis. Commercial advertisements are prohibited. The deadline is noon Monday. Freebies are intended for personal household goods and privately owned property, and may only be submitted by active, retired or reserve component military members and civilian employees working on Fort Sam Houston. Real estate ads will not be published. To submit paid classified ads or commercial advertising, call Prime Time at 453-3300. To submit a Fort Freebie, e-mail to news.leader@samhouston.army.mil or fax to 295-0512. Ensure your military and Fort Sam Houston civil service status, phone number and name appear on request. Freebies run for one week unless submitter calls to renew. There is a two-week maximum and a limit of five items per entry. For more information, call 221-1031.

For Sale: 2003 Ford F-150 XL, five-speed, CD player, TUFF bedliner, 48,000 miles, \$13,000. Call Jon at 885-9096.

For Sale: RCA 128MB MP3 player with CD and accessories, \$35; Disney videos, \$5 each; video chair, \$10; five framed Disney lithographs, \$10 each; White Hot three-ball putter, \$25 obo. Call 697-9261.

For Sale: 1994 Nissan Pathfinder SE sport utility, AC, power steering,

windows and locks, tilt wheel, cruise control, flip-up roof, alloy wheels, \$4,500. Call Monica at 295-7112.

For Sale: 1990 Dodge Ram van, rebuilt engine and drive train, \$2,500. Call 639-1116.

For Sale: Man’s bowling ball, \$5; corner TV table, \$100; three-piece wicker set with two barrel chairs and table, \$100; baby stroller, \$15; slat bench table, \$15. Call 656-7840.

For Sale: 2001 Honda Accord V-6

coupe, silver with gray leather interior, new tires and battery, 88,342 miles, \$11,500. Call 221-1020 days or 494-8401 evenings.

For Sale: Whirlpool washer and dryer, \$100 each. Call 558-6883.

For Sale: New treadmill with surge protector and multiple settings, \$230. Call 497-3029 or 378-4191.

For Sale: Cleopatra-style chaise with gold fringe, \$300. Call 658-8589 or 663-1573.

Ethics training

Ethics training for U.S. Army Medical Department Center and School and Fort Sam Houston U.S. Army Garrison units will take place today at 9 a.m. and Dec. 13 at 2 p.m. in Blesse Auditorium, Building 2841. The training takes about one hour. The secretary of the Army requires every Soldier and civil service employee to attend ethics training annually. The staff judge advocate and officials from the AMEDDC&S and post will present the training and maintain sign-in rosters for commanders and supervisors to verify attendance of their employees. People can access the sign-in rosters by opening the Adobe Acrobat Reader and the SJA ethics roster folder on the G drive. For more information, call Gerald Krimbill, Shelby Tanner or Capt. Brian Underdahl at 221-2373 or 221-0485.